

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 51.2960

the following tolerances shall be permitted for nuts which fail to meet the requirements of the respective grades as indicated. Terms in quotation marks refer to color classifications illustrated on the color chart.

TOLERANCES FOR GRADE DEFECTS

Grade	External (shell) defects	Internal (kernel) defects	Color of kernel
U.S. No. 1.	10 pct, by count for splits. 5 pct. by count, for other shell defects, including not more than 3 pct seriously damaged.	10 pct total by count, including not more than 6 pct which are damaged by mold or insects or seriously damaged by other means, of which not more than 5% or 5 pct may be damaged by insects, but no part of any tolerance shall be allowed for walnuts containing live insects.	No tolerance to reduce the required 70 pct of "light amber" kernels or the required 40 pct of "light" kernels or any larger percentage of "light amber" or "light" kernels specified.
U.S. No. 2.	10 pct, by count, for splits. 10 pct, by count, for other shell defects, including not more than 5 pct serious damage by adhering hulls.	15 pct total, by count, including not more than 8 pct which are damaged by mold or insects or seriously damaged by other means, of which not more than 5% or 5 pct may be damaged by insects, but no part of any tolerance shall be allowed for walnuts containing live insects.	No tolerance to reduce the required 60 pct or any specified larger percentage of "light amber" kernels, or any specified percentage of "light" kernels.
U.S. No. 3.	Same as above tolerance for U.S. No. 2.	Same as above tolerance for U.S. No. 2.	No tolerance to reduce any percentage of "light amber" or "light" kernel specified.

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APPLICATION OF TOLERANCES

§ 51.2955 Application of tolerances.

The tolerances provided in these standards are on a lot basis, and they shall be applied to a composite sample representative of the lot. However, any identifiable container or group of containers in which the walnuts are obviously of a quality materially different from that in the majority of the containers shall be considered as a separate lot, and shall be sampled separately.

DEFINITIONS

§ 51.2956 Practically clean.

Practically clean means that, from the viewpoint of general appearance, the walnuts are practically free from adhering dirt or other foreign matter, and that individual walnuts are not damaged by such means. A slightly chalky deposit on the shell is characteristic of many bleached nuts and shall not be considered as dirt or foreign matter.

§ 51.2957 Bright.

Bright means a fairly light, attractive appearance. A slight chalky deposit on the shell shall not be considered as affecting brightness.

§ 51.2958 Splits.

Splits means walnuts with the seam opened completely around the nut so that the two halves of the shell are held together only by the kernel.

§ 51.2959 Injury by discoloration.

Injury by discoloration means that the color of the affected portion of the shell objectionably contrasts with the color of the rest of the shell of the individual nut.

§ 51.2960 Damage.

Damage means any specific defect mentioned in this section; or any equally objectionable variation of any one of these defects, any other defect, or any combination of defects which materially detracts from the appearance or the edible or shipping quality of the individual walnut or the lot as a whole. The following specific defects shall be considered as damage:

§51.2961

(a) Broken shells when the area from which a portion of the shell is missing is greater than the area of a circle one-fourth inch in diameter; or when the two halves of the shell have become completely broken apart and separated from each other;

(b) Perforated shells when the area affected aggregates more than that of a circle one-fourth inch in diameter. The term “perforated shells” means imperfectly developed areas on the shell resembling abrasions and usually including small holes penetrating the shell wall;

(c) Adhering hulls when affecting more than 5 percent of the shell surface;

(d) Discoloration (or stain) which covers, in the aggregate, one-fifth or more of the surface of the shell of an individual nut, and which is brown, reddish brown, gray, or other color in pronounced contrast with the color of the rest of the shell or the majority of shells in the lot, or darker discoloration covering a smaller area if the appearance is equally objectionable;

(e) Mold when attached to the kernel and conspicuous; or when inconspicuous white or gray mold affects an aggregate area larger than one square centimeter or one-eighth of the entire surface of the kernel, whichever is the lesser area;

(f) Shriveling when more than 5 percent of the surface of the kernel, including both halves, is severely shriveled, or a greater area is affected by lesser degrees of shriveling producing an equally objectionable appearance. Kernels which are thin in cross section but which are otherwise normally developed shall not be considered as damaged; and,

(g) Insects when an insect or insect fragment, web or frass is present inside the shell, or the kernel shows distinct evidence of insect feeding.

§51.2961 Well dried.

Well dried means that the kernel is firm and crisp, not pliable or leathery.

§51.2962 Decay.

Decay means that any portion of the kernel is decomposed.

7 CFR Ch. I (1–1–05 Edition)

§51.2963 Dark discoloration.

Dark discoloration means that the color of the skin of the kernel is darker than “amber”. (See color chart.)

§51.2964 Rancidity.

Rancidity means the stage of deterioration in which the kernel has developed a rancid flavor. Rancidity should not be confused with a slightly astringent flavor of the pellicle (skin) or with staleness, the stage at which the flavor is flat but not distasteful.

§51.2965 Fairly clean.

Fairly clean means that, from the viewpoint of general appearance, the lot is not seriously damaged by adhering dirt or other foreign matter, and that individual walnuts are not coated or caked with dirt or foreign matter. Both the amount of surface affected and the color of the dirt shall be taken into consideration.

§51.2966 Serious damage.

Serious damage means any specific defect mentioned in this section; or an equally objectionable variation of any one of these defects, any other defect, or any combination of defects which seriously detracts from the appearance or the edible or shipping quality of the walnut. The following specific defects shall be considered as serious damage:

(a) Discoloration (or stain) which covers, in the aggregate, one-third or more of the surface of the shell of an individual nut and which is brown, reddish brown, gray, or other color in pronounced contrast with the color of the rest of the shell or the majority of shells in the lot, or darker discoloration covering a smaller area if the appearance is equally objectionable;

(b) Perforated shells when the area affected aggregates more than that of a circle three-eighths of an inch in diameter. The term “perforated shells” means imperfectly developed areas on the shell resembling abrasions and usually including small holes penetrating the shell wall;

(c) Adhering hulls when affecting more than one-eighth of the shell surface in the aggregate;